

News briefing  
November 21, 2005  
5 p.m.

1. President extends 100 percent federal reimbursement for debris removal and emergency protective measures until January 15.

2. Housing

- Extension granted for hotel/motel leases until December 14
- 21,000 families now in travel trailers

3. Great news on state's bond rating

- Moody's Investors Service has confirmed the general obligation bond rating of the State of Mississippi at Aa3 with a stable outlook.
- This action, ending a review that began 10 weeks ago in response to Hurricane Katrina, takes into account the disaster's economic and revenue impact, as well as Mississippi's ability to manage resulting fiscal stress.
- Moody's believes the state's overall economy appears likely to recover fairly rapidly, bolstered by federal aid and insurance benefits.
- Moreover, even in the short term, the catastrophe's effects on state tax collections appear manageable, in part because of the conservative forecasting practices on which the current budget is based.
- Call on State Treasurer Tate Reeves for details.

4. Tommie Dale Farve announcement

5. Governor's office, Mississippi Development Authority, Department of Finance and Administration will return to Sillers Building next summer

6. Accepted with deep regret the resignation of Michael Callahan from Public Service Commission; law provides for appointment to fill his unexpired term; election in 2007

7. Have today signed letter authorizing state to assume supervision of North Bolivar schools